

welcome Israel into the family of nations. And for 65 years Israel and the United States have remained the best of friends and the strongest of allies. One reason for the enduring strength of this relationship is the enduring contributions made by Jewish Americans in enriching American life and culture.

Mr. Speaker, as a representative of the state of Texas which has welcomed Jews for more than three centuries, I join with my colleagues and President Obama in calling upon all Americans to learn more about the heritage and contributions of Jewish Americans and to observe this month with appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies.

HONORING FRED ACQUAVITA ON  
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 6, 2013*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, colleagues, and community leaders who have gathered in celebration of an outstanding member of our community and my dear friend, Fred Acquavita, as he retires from his post as Headmaster of St. Thomas Day School in New Haven, Connecticut after more than three decades of service in education.

A native of New Haven, Fred left Connecticut to attend the Kansas State College of Pittsburg to earn his Bachelors Degree and later returned to earn his Masters from Southern Connecticut State University as well as his 6th Year from Bank Street College of Education. Fred began his career as a teacher in the New Haven Public School system working with children in elementary and secondary schools. Deeply passionate about education and making it work for both teachers and our young people, Fred focused his professional growth on building expertise in curriculum development, instructional support, strategic planning, and team building—all of which would serve him well as he accepted the leadership role at St. Thomas's Day School. As Headmaster of St. Thomas's Day School, Fred has helped to shape the lives of hundreds of young people—nourishing their minds, encouraging their imaginations, and preparing them well to meet their full potential and realize their dreams.

Fred's dedication to enriching our community extends far beyond his work in education. Throughout his adult life he has dedicated much of his time to a myriad of local service organizations. He has served on the Board of Directors at Farnum Neighborhood House where he also coached "Biddy Basketball," participated in the Graustein Foundation Leadership Program, and is currently an Associate Fellow Yale's Berkeley College as well as a member of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools.

On a more personal note, I want to take a moment to thank Fred for his many years of special friendship. His support and camaraderie is something that I will always cherish. Fred's passion for making a difference is an inspiration to many and I consider myself very fortunate to call him my friend.

Teacher, administrator, advocate, and mentor, Fred is a reflection of all that we attribute to an outstanding public servant. His actions reflect his deep and abiding belief in the words of St. Francis of Assisi—we should all strive to "make this a better world and let it begin with me." For his many invaluable contributions to both St. Thomas's Day School and our community, I am proud to stand today and extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to my good friend, Fred Acquavita, as he celebrates his retirement. I wish him as well as his wife, Marie; their children, John and Michael; and their three beautiful granddaughters the very best for many more years of health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING ISMAEL GUZMAN ON  
HIS ENLISTMENT INTO THE  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 6, 2013*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ismael Guzman, a senior at Glades Central High School in Belle Glade, Florida. Ismael is fine young man who has received good grades, and will graduate later this month. He has courageously chosen to enlist in the United States Marine Corps.

Ismael should be extremely proud of his decision to serve this nation. It is thanks to the commitment and dedication of individuals such as him, that we are able to meet here in the House of Representatives, and openly debate and legislate on the many issues facing our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Ismael Guzman for his selflessness to enlist in the Marine Corps. I am certain that he will serve with honor and distinction. We owe him, as well as all the men and women serving in uniform a debt of gratitude.

IN MEMORY OF PATRICK R.  
FOSTER

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 6, 2013*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Patrick R. Foster.

As a Vietnam War veteran who served in a Naval Attack Squadron and a superintendent with the city of Federal Way, Washington, Pat Foster's life was dedicated to public service. As the self-proclaimed "CEO of potholes" for the city, Pat supervised a staff that maintained the city's many roads and sidewalks, using his warmth and sense of humor to add a human touch in handling the multitude of requests the city received.

Pat's tireless efforts and down-to-earth demeanor led his colleagues throughout the Federal Way city government to consider him an integral part of its operations. He was trusted to develop and implement creative and resourceful solutions to the issues and challenges faced by the city and its residents, while involving others and making them feel equally important in the process. As a leader,

he spared no opportunity to make sure his staff's good work received due recognition. Under Pat's leadership, his Public Works division and those who worked in it earned a great deal of respect from all. He was also so well regarded by residents that they would request assistance from him by name.

Fiercely proud of his service with the Navy, colleagues fondly remember Pat's many stories of his time in the military and remarked about the wealth of aviation knowledge he was able to share. Nowhere was this on more prominent display than during a visit to the National Air and Space Museum. During their trip to Washington, DC, they also shared an especially moving time with Pat at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Pat's unrelenting and quiet dedication to serving the public, in the military and in local government, serves as an example of the tremendous impact one outstanding person can have on his community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the life of Pat Foster. He is a reminder of the standards of service to which we should aspire every day.

RECOGNIZING PETTY OFFICER 1ST  
CLASS (FMF) BENNY MENDIOLA  
FLORES JR. ON RECEIVING A  
SILVER STAR

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 6, 2013*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Petty Officer 1st Class (FMF) Benny Mendiola Flores Jr., a hospital corpsman serving with the Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, on receiving a Silver Star, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action with combat operations against the enemy while serving as Field Medical Service Technician, I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), on 28 April 2012, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was presented with the Silver Star, the military's third-highest award for valor, at a ceremony at Camp Pendleton, Calif., on May 3, 2013.

Petty Officer Flores, a native of Guam, graduated from Southern High School in 2001, and, shortly thereafter, enlisted in the United States Navy. He always wanted to be a corpsman, and, in his remarks at the award ceremony, demonstrated his humility and gratitude for the opportunity to serve our country. He is currently serving his third deployment to the Middle East.

During his deployment to Afghanistan last year, Petty Officer Flores was providing medical coverage for a three-day, Afghan-led mission to Zaranj, Afghanistan near Iran's border. He was riding in the back of a pickup in Nimruz province's Zaranj district returning to camp after a trip to the Iranian border when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle as a result of a suicide bomber. Despite suffering shrapnel wounds to his arms and back, he immediately began helping the wounded. He risked his life four times, running through enemy gunfire to help save the Marines and Afghan Uniform Police officer who were injured in the blast.

Petty Officer Flores stayed focused administering combat lifesaving skills. Although he